



PHOTO: STAR

A section of unscrupulous people have continued encroaching upon the Karotoa flowing through Bogra town, as if to hasten disappearance of the nearly dead river. The photo, taken near Cholopara Bridge in the town, shows land occupied on the western bank of the watercourse by an influential person, also an adherent of the ruling party.

Reopen the lone Rakhine language school in Kuakata

Community people urge government

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

People of Rakhine community in Kuakata have urged the government to take early steps for reopening their community school to facilitate mother language learning of their children.

Earlier Rakhine language was taught at a community school run by Rakhine people at the local Bouddha Bihar (pagoda).

But the century-old school that taught children for two hours from 7:00am to 9:00am daily was closed in 1998 due to lack of fund.

Later in January 2006, Rakhine youth Chin Than Monjur set up a community school on the ground floor of his residence at Karanipara in Kuakata to teach mother language to the community children.

He also collected some old Rakhine books from a pagoda in Chittagong.

It started with around 20/25 community children and later the number of students rose to 58.

Intiaz Tushar, a local youth also director

of Kuakata Development Society, took over the charge of the school after six months. He personally managed salary of the only teacher Monjur and other maintenance cost. He also collected some Rakhine language books from Myanmar and distributed it among students for free.

Following response from local people, Tushar also set up three more community schools in Mothaupara, Nairipara and Nayapara in Kuakata area. Over 200 Rakhine children studied in these community schools. But after two years all these schools closed due to lack of fund.

"Our children cannot learn their mother language as there is no school here. Our new generation is about to forget their mother tongue. Many of them can speak their mother tongue as they learn it by hearing from their parents but they cannot write it," said Chin Than Monjur.

The government should set up community schools to facilitate mother language learning of Rakhine children in Kuakata, said Monchu Waeen, a Rakhine leader.

SNIPPETS

Removal of CS demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Doctors, nurses and health workers held a procession at Natore Sadar Hospital yesterday demanding removal of the civil surgeon (CS). At a rally, Abdul Goni, resident medical officer of the hospital urged the authorities to remove the CS without further delay. Munsif Asad-uz-Zaman Tony, another RMO of the hospital announced protest programmes including black badge wearing, one hour strike from 8:00am to 9:00am from today to press his removal. Earlier on March 01, the protesters declared 72-hour ultimatum to remove the CS. Abdul Baten, CS in Natore said, some corrupt officials are trying to remove him as he took action against them.

CEC due in Khulna today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr ATM Shamsul Huda will arrive in Khulna city this afternoon from Bagerhat to hold a meeting with officials of the district. According to deputy commissioner Jamsher Ahmed Khandaker, the CEC will hold discussion with officials of district and police administration, UNOs and all returning officers appointed to conduct ensuing UP elections. Meanwhile, 439 aspirants filed nomination papers to contest for the post of chairman of 68 union parishads under nine upazilas in Khulna district. Besides, 3,115 filed nomination papers for elections to the posts of general members and 863 to the posts of reserved woman members of 68 unions of the district.

Man killed by 'wife and son'

UNB, Dinajpur

A man was killed allegedly by his wife and son following a family feud at Jaypur village in Nababganj upazila Saturday night. The deceased was identified as M Mizanur Rahman. Police said Mizan's son Rantu Miah and first wife Bulbuli used to quarrel with him for returning home often in drunken state. On Saturday night when he returned home in drunken state the mother and the son locked in an altercation with him. At one stage, they stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

Woman, boy commit 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A woman and a teenage boy allegedly committed suicide in the district yesterday and on Saturday night. The victims were identified as Muslima Begum, 45, wife of Mobarak Sama of village Sarulia in Tala upazila and Habibur Rahman, 15, son of Abul Khair of village Tulshidanga in Kalaroa upazila, also a student of class nine at Kalaroa Alia Madrasa. Quoting locals police said, Muslima took poison following a quarrel with her husband and died at home at about 10:30 pm on Saturday. In the other incident, Habibur committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his house at village Tulshidanga yesterday morning.

Poultry culled in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

About 4,000 poultry birds of a farm killed in Patuakhali town were culled at about 8:00 pm on Saturday following detection of bird flu. Patuakhali Sadar upazila administration, livestock officials and policemen jointly killed the affected hens at 'Patuakhali Poultry Farm' at Bahalgachia in the town. Md Esha Mahmud, owner of the farm said he informed livestock officials following death of several hens at the farm. "They killed 3,700 pieces of hens of my farm and dumped them under the soil," he said.

Girl rescued from brothel

UNB, Goalanda

Police and DB personnel in a joint drive rescued a girl, aged 14, from a brothel at Daulatdia Monday night. The girl was identified as Happy, daughter of Kuddus Bepari in Sadapur Mohabbatpur village of Nababganj upazila of Dhaka district. She was working in a garment factory in Mirpur. Goalonda police station SI Ilias Munshi said Raju, a young boy allured Happy to marry her in Faridpur on November 30 last year. But, he sold out Happy to the brothel. Later, Happy's family came to know about it and took legal assistance from Ain Sahayata Kendra (ASAK).

Frauds decamp with depositors' money

Hundreds pauperised in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Aggrieved depositors laid a siege to the house of Unipay2u agent in Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district on Saturday afternoon demanding immediate return of their deposit.

Ismail Hossain Shaon opened Swarna Enterprise at Sundarganj upazila town as an agent of Unipay2u and started collecting money from depositors by offering very attractive benefit packages, locals said.

Giving assurance that the depositors will get double their money by ten months, Ismail was able to collect crores of taka from about two thousand depositors, they alleged.

With the hope of getting huge profit, people collected money from various sources including sale of landed property to 'invest' in the NGO project.

They became worried when the government imposed restrictions on the activities of Unipay2u following its dubious activities.

Depositors strongly demanded return of their money from the agent but in vain.

Around two months ago, agent Ismail Hossain and other employees of Unipay2u upazila office Swarna Enterprise fled away after locking the office fearing wrath of depositors.

"I have sold landed property and deposited Tk 20,000 to Unipay2u with the hope of double profit, but I am now totally

ruined," said Naya Mia of Santiram village in Sundarganj upazila.

"The future of my invested money is uncertain, as the agent of Unipay2u fled away," said Abu Raihan, an employee of Sundarganj municipality.

Several others including Abu Sayeed and Sultan Mahmud said they also gave money to the agents of Unipay2u to get handsome profits but they are now worried about recovery of the money.

The upazila administration has deployed police to avert any unwanted situation.

Action will be taken against the culprits as soon as they are found involved, said Sundarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsul Alam.



PHOTO: STAR

Aggrieved depositors of Unipay2u in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district besiege the house of Ismail Hossain Shaon, upazila agent of the swindler NGO, demanding return of their deposited money on Saturday afternoon.

Restore time-scale, nationalise job

Agitating non-govt college teachers demand

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Non-government college teachers yesterday staged demonstrations in several districts across the country demanding restoration of time-scale and nationalisation of their job.

In Barisal, non-government college teachers formed a human chain in front of Ashwani kumar Hall in the city and then held a rally at the venue, reports our correspondent.

Addressing the rally, the speakers threatened to launch a road blockade, programme and refrain themselves from the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) election and public examination duties if their demands are not met by March 8. Barisal regional committee of

Bangladesh College Shikkhak Samity organised the programme. School Shikkhak Samity, Shikkak Karmachari Oikya Front and Madrasa Shikkhak Samity extended their support to the programme.

Chaired by Principal ATM Mizanur Rahman, the rally was addressed, among others, by convener of Bangladesh College Shikkhak Samity Barisal unit, Principal Harunur Rashid, Nurul Alam, Prof. Guranga Kundu, Majibur Rahman, School Teachers Association leader Maulana Nazrul Islam and Madrasa Teachers Association leaders.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reported that teachers of Joypurhat non-government colleges yesterday formed a human in the district town demanding

implementation of their seven-point demand including withdrawal of decision of postponement of time-scale.

In the afternoon, they submitted a memorandum containing their demands to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through acting Deputy Commissioner of Joypurhat Md Monjur Hasan Bhuiyan.

Later, the teachers brought out a silent procession and paraded the different streets in town.

The demands include restoration of time-scale, promotion of teachers, enhancement of house rent and medical allowances from Tk100 and 150, implementation of National Education Policy, salary increment according to national pay-scale and festival bonus.



Save the kids from 'dark world'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Sex workers in Mymensingh brothel are crying for a shelter home to save their innocent kids from the 'dark world'.

Twenty-five of the 70 children in the brothel are schoolgoing.

"For long we have demanded a shelter home where our kids will enjoy a better environment to receive education to change their generations to come. There are shelter homes in Dhaka, Jamalpur, Tangail and Daulatdia but our demand for the same is yet to be met," said Hasna Hena, secretary of Shuktara, an organisation of sex workers at the brothel.

"Many children of a brothel at Sonagachhi in Kolkata of West Bengal got established there through receiving higher education as the authority arranged adequate shelter home facility," she said.

"World Vision HIV/AIDS Mymensingh ADP is running

Sex workers want shelter home for their children

pre-primary school where our children can take their primary learning. We raised our demand in different forums on several occasions and urged the local administration for a shelter home but to no effect," she said.

"When the children need care in their reading table in the evening, we have to remain busy to entertain the clients to earn bread," said Monwara, a sex worker.

"We have to admit our children to different schools concealing the real address to save the kids from embarrassment. Some sex workers rent houses in the town for their children's education but it is not possible for all," said Baby Akhtar, assistant secretary of Shuktara.

School going Shimul, Kalu, Rony, Emon, Sagar,

Ibrahim, Asha and Dulali -- all staying with their mothers at the brothel, said they do not like the chaotic atmosphere and huge shouting of the drunken people.

"We want to receive education to live well like other children but who will come forward to help us?" said Shimul, a class two student.

"People neglect us and our mothers are helpless," said Emon.

"We have no scope to come out from this hellish life. But we want our children to lead a decent life by receiving proper education," said Antora, a young sex worker and mother of a ten-month old girl.

"When the election comes, candidates give assurance to meet our demands to draw our votes. But after the election, they forget everything and keep themselves away as representatives of the civilised society," said Ayesha Begum, an elderly sex worker.

MUTINY IN CHITTAGONG

Charge-hearing against 153 starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hearing of charges against 153 mutineers of Chittagong sector headquarters began at the special court-15 yesterday.

All the accused were produced in the court headed Sector Commander Col Md Bashirul Islam. Two other members are Lt Col Md Abdur Rouf, Major MA Rakib.

Prosecutor Lt Col Md Shamimur Rahman brought charges against 153 jawans for their involvement in the

mutiny at the sector headquarters on February 26 in 2009.

He stated that the jawans revolted against their officers, looted firearms and ammunition from armoury and fired blank shots.

After first day's hearing, the court fixed March 15 for next hearing on the mutiny charges against the accused.

Deputy Attorney General and Goutam Kumar Roy and special public prosecutors advocate Bilayet Hossain and Kazi Eliashur Rahman were present.